

Remarks/Arguments

Claims

Prior to this reply and amendment, claims 1-27 and 44-47 were pending in this application. Claims 2, 3, 9, 12, 13, and 19 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 11, 14, 15, 20, 44, 46, and 47 have been amended. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification as filed. No new matter enters by way of this amendment. After entry of these amendments, claims 1, 4-8, 10-11, 14-18, 20-27, and 44-47 will be pending.

Response to Detailed Action

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112 – first paragraph

Regarding paragraphs 1 and 2 of the detailed action, claims 1-27 and 44-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 first paragraph as not enabled.

Without agreeing with these rejections, Applicant has amended the claims to overcome these rejections and promote allowance of these claims.

Applicant requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph rejections.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112 – second paragraph

Regarding paragraph 3 of the detailed action, claims 4 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph as indefinite.

In view of the amendments provided herein, these rejections are moot. Withdrawal of the rejections is, accordingly, requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Regarding paragraph 4 of the detailed action, claims 1-8, 11-18, 21-24, 44-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious over Kawai, U.S. Patent Application 2003/0086149, in view of Duthaler *et alia*, WO 03/050607.

In view of the amendments provided herein, these rejections are moot. Withdrawal of the rejections is, accordingly, requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Regarding paragraph 5 of the detailed action, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Conclusion

In view of the arguments and amendments presented herein, Applicant believes that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all outstanding rejections and pass this application to issue. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the phone number provided if he believes that such contact will expedite allowance of the claims.

Date: May 1, 2006

Very Truly Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ASB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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